

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 771 - HB 1268

March 18, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes the Rutherford County Election Commission to conduct a pilot program on convenience vote centers. The Coordinator of Elections, in collaboration with each county election commission where the municipality has been chosen for the pilot project, shall establish a program that allows the county elections commission to combine precincts within the municipality or establish convenient voting centers for the municipal election scheduled in 2011 or, for a municipal election scheduled in 2012, at a time other than the May primary, the regular August or November election, or the presidential preference primary.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease Local Expenditures – Net Impact - \$1,300/One-Time

Assumptions:

- In a convenient voting center program, the election commission will conduct the election beginning 20 days before the election and ending on election day.
- The election commission will consolidate voting precincts. Instead of having polling places in each voting precinct, the election commission will select a minimum of two voting locations within the city where voters will cast their ballots throughout the established voting period.
- Without convenience voting, early voting will be conducted as usual and 14 precincts will be open on election day; with convenience voting, two vote centers will open from the twentieth day before the election through the day of the election.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, the two vote centers will save approximately \$19,036 which includes the cost of election-day workers, precinct rentals, and delivery costs for voting machines.
- The bill requires the county election commission to mail a notice to each voter whose polling place is changed to inform the voter of the convenient vote center location. Approximately 44,864 notices will be mailed to these voters at a cost of \$19,740 (44,864 x \$0.44).
- If the city mailed the sample ballots to each household instead of publishing the sample ballot in the local newspaper and included the sample ballot with the vote center location notice, an additional \$1,958 in local expenditures will be saved.
- The fiscal impact is based on the Murfreesboro city election in 2012; therefore, the decrease in local expenditures will be at the city level.

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- The net decrease in local expenditures for the city of Murfreesboro will be \$1,254 [$\$19,036 + (\$1,958 - \$19,740)$] if vote centers are used in this election.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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